

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How is Indian literature unparalleled?

Ans. In the field of language and literature, Indian heritage is unparalleled. It is not easy to find such a literature in any other language as to match with the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Puranas, the Mahabharata, the Ramayana, the Bhagavadgita and the Jatakas, the Tripitakas along with Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa of the Buddhists, Angam texts of the Jains and the Sangam literature of the Tamils.

Q.2. What does the Tamil epic Silappadhikaram deal with?

Ans. The famous Tamil epic, the Silappadhikaram, was composed by the poet named Ilango about 1,800 years ago. It tells about a merchant called Kovalan who lived in Puhar and fell in love with a courtesan named Madhavi. He neglected his wife Kannagi. Later, he and Kannagi left Puhar and went to Madurai where he was falsely accused of theft by the court jeweller of the Pandya king. The king sentenced Kovalan to death. Kannagi, who still loved him, was full of grief.

Q.3. What did Tamil epic Manimekalai depict?

Ans. Another Tamil epic, the *Manimekalai* was composed by Sattanar around 1,400 years ago. It describes the story of the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi. The manuscripts of these beautiful compositions were rediscovered about a hundred years ago.

Q.4. Give India's achievements in the field of architecture.

Ans. In the field of architecture, the Great Bath of Mohenjodaro, Buddhist temples at Gaya, the Stupas at Sanchi and Bharhut, the Gupta temples at Deogarh and Kanpur, the Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneshwar, the Tejpal Temple at Mount Abu, the Mahadev Temple at Khajuraho, Vishnu Temple at Badami and the Shiva Temple at Thanjavur deserve special mention.

Q.5. Give India's achievements in the field of sculpture and stone carving.

Ans. In the field of sculpture and stone carving, the Indus seals and toys, the Ashokan pillars at Sanchi, Sarnath, Lauriya Nandangarh, Rampurva, etc., stone images made during the Gupta and the Rajput periods, several other pieces of sculpture made in the Gandhara style and the images carved in stone at the Ajanta and Ellora caves are worth mentioning.

Q.6. How were Hindu temples carved out?

Ans. Ancient Hindu temples of deities like Shiva, Vishnu and mother goddess were also decorated with sculpture and paints. The room where the chief deity was placed was called the garbhagriha. Priests and devotees performed rituals and devotion at this place. On the top of the garbhagriha was a *shikara* which was made as a mark of

respect to the deity. Building of shikaras required careful thinking. It even had a space or hall called *mandapa* where marriage or other important religious ceremonies were performed.

Q.7. Examine developments of science in ancient India.

Ans. It was the time when Aryabhata, a mathematician and an astronomer, wrote a book in Sanskrit known as the *Aryabhatiyam*. He stated that days and nights were caused by the rotation of the Earth on its axis, even though it seems as if the Sun is rising and setting every day.